

714

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/577,006

Examiner

Kim-Kwok CHU

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Terminal Disclaimer filed on 1/16/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13, 14, 53-59, 43 and 60 which are renumbered as 13-21, 22 and 23 respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/895,511.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Terminal Disclaimer

1. Terminal Disclaimer filed on 12/07/2006 has been approved on January 16, 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 13, 14, 43 and 54-60 are allowable over the prior art of record.

3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

As in claims 13 and 60, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an optical pickup having the following features:

(a) a semiconductor laser and at least one light receiving element formed in a single stem; and

(b) the light-receiving element formed on the stem consists of two pieces of two-divisional light-receiving elements respectively having dividing directions different from each other, and a height of one of the light-receiving elements is the same as a height of the semiconductor laser, while a height of another one of the light-receiving elements is different from the height of the semiconductor laser.

As in claim 43, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an optical pickup having two pieces of

prism consisting of same sort of uniaxial crystal respectively having optical axes intersecting perpendicularly to each other are employed as a flux separating element, such that when a refractive index for ordinary light rays of the prism η_0 is larger than a refractive index for extraordinary light rays η_e , an incident angle of the ordinary light rays transmitted through the first prism to the second prism is δ , and a counterclockwise angle from the optical axis of the ordinary light rays is in a plus (+) direction when the value of δ becomes larger than zero, and such that when η_0 is larger than η_e , an incident angle of the extraordinary light rays transmitted through the first prism to the second prism is δ , and a counterclockwise angle from the optical axis of the extraordinary light rays is in a plus (+) direction when the value of δ becomes smaller than zero ($\delta < 0$).

The features indicated above, in combination with the other elements of the claims, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the prior art of record.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Kim CHU whose telephone number is (571) 272-7585 between 9:30 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington, can be reached on (571) 272-4483.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished application is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9191 (toll free).

Kim-Kwok CHU

Examiner AU2627

March 21, 2007

(571) 272-7585

3/21/2007


ANDREA WELLINGTON
PATENT EXAMINER